AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as set forth below.

Please replace paragraph [0085] beginning on page 25 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

[0085] FIGS. 1A-1~~B~~C: Schematic representation of the VEGF 5'- and 3'-UTRs generated by PCR. A. VEGF 5'UTR was amplified from human genomic DNA by two separate PCR reactions. 5'UTRI, from position 337 to the 3' end plus first 45 nucleotides of VEGF open reading frame, was generated using primers 3 and 4. 5'UTR2, covered from position 1 to 498, was generated with primers 1 and 2. In the overlap region of 5'UTR1 and 5'UTR2, the unique enzyme site BamH I was used to assemble the full length 5'UTR in the subsequent cloning. B. The full length VEGF 3'UTR was directly amplified from genomic DNA using primers 5 and 6. The two enzyme sites close to 5' end and 3' end of 3'UTR (BgI II and EcoR I) were used for subsequent cloning. C. The following four primers shown were used to amplify VEGF 5'UTR: Primer 1 (SEQ ID NO:69); Primer 2 (SEQ ID NO: 70); Primer 3 (SEQ ID NO:71); and Primer 4 (SEQ ID NO:72). The following two primers shown were used to amplify VEGF 3'UTR: Primer 5 (SEQ ID NO:73) and Primer 6 (SEQ ID NO:74).

Please replace paragraph [0086] beginning on page 26 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

[0086] FIGS. 2A-2C: Identification of VEGF IRES domain in the VEGF mRNA 5'UTR. A. Dual luciferase vector used for mapping IRES function (Grentzmann et al., 1998, RNA 4:479-486). The polylinker sites (SEQ ID NO:75) used in mapping IRES function have been identified. B. Schematic representation of the dicistronic plasmids used for transfection experiments. P2luc/vegfSutr1 is the dicistronic plasmid containing the VEGF 5'UTRI, in which nucleotides 337 to 1083 of the VEGF cDNA were fused to the firefly luciferase coding sequence; P2luc/vegf5utr-fl was generated by subcloning VEGF 5'UTR2 into the plasmid p2luc/vegf5utr1 between Sal I and BamH I; plasmid p2luc/vegf5'utrdelta51-476 is derived from p2luc/vegf5'utr-fl by removing the Nhe I fragment (nt 51 to 746); plasmid p2luc/vegf5utr-delta476-1038 was derived from p2luc/vegf5utr-fl by removing the sequence from BamH I site to the 3'end of 5'UTR; plasmid p2luc/vegf5utrdeltal-476 was derived from

p2luc/vegf5utr-fl by removing the sequence from BamH I to the 5'end of 5'UTR. P2luc-e used as negative control in this study. C. The constructs depicted in panel A were transfected into 293T cells in the triplicate format and expression was analyzed by monitoring luciferase activity.

Please replace the paper copy and CRF of the Sequence Listing filed on October 23, 2006 with the paper copy and CRF of the Substitute Sequence Listing submitted herewith.